

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 120790  
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SIG-03 SSO-00  
NSCE-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 NRC-05 OES-07 CEQ-01  
L-03 /116 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA:RLFISCHER, EA/PRC:JSROY/GFOX:MJT,BDB  
APPROVED BY P: DDNEWSOM  
EA - WHGLEESTEEN  
S/P - AROMBERG-NSC RPUTNAM  
PM/DCA - MARIETTI  
EUR/RPM - BRECKON  
IO - GHELMAN  
ACDA/D/C - AYARMOLINSKY  
ACDA/ISP - DCLINARD  
ACDA/MA -CFLOWERREE

-----075886 112321Z /61

O 112208Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE  
USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 120790

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CH, US

SUBJECT: UNSSOD: NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS PROPOSAL  
REFERENCES: A) STATE 116267/(NOTAL) B) LONDON (NOTAL)

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1. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT WISH TO HAVE PARALLEL APPROACHES  
MADE TO SOVIETS, FRENCH, AND CHINESE SINCE WE ARE NOT PRE-  
PARED TO GO FORWARD WITH THIS PROPOSAL IF THE CHINESE RE-  
ACTION IS NEGATIVE. WE DO NOT WISH TO PUT OURSELVES IN THE  
POSITION WITH THE SOVIETS PARTICULARLY OF SOUNDING THEM  
OUT ON AN IDEA WHICH WE SUBSEQUENTLY DEFER BECAUSE OF  
CHINESE OPPOSITION. ACCORDINGLY, IN VIEW OF QUESTIONS AND

CONCERNS BRITISH HAVE RAISED ABOUT OUR SUGGESTION THAT UK APPROACH PRC ON OUR BEHALF, WE WOULD PREFER TO HANDLE THE APPROACH TO THE CHINESE OURSELVES.

2. FOR USUN: YOU ARE REQUESTED TO SOUND OUT THE CHINESE INFORMALLY IN A LOW KEY MANNER ALONG THE LINES OF THE TALKING POINTS PROVIDED BELOW. IN DOING SO, YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT WE BELIEVE THE PROPOSAL MAY HAVE MERIT BUT THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO TAKE AN INITIATIVE ON THIS ISSUE IF THE CHINESE OBJECT. BEGIN FYI - GIVEN THE GENERAL CHINESE APPROACH TO THE UNSSOD, WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE CHINESE REACTION WILL BE NEGATIVE, BUT WE DO NOT WISH TO FORECLOSE THE POSSIBILITY OF A MORE RECEPTIVE CHINESE ATTITUDE. END FYI.

3. DURING YOUR APPROACH YOU MAY MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- US IS CONSIDERING WHETHER IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO PROPOSE AT THE SSOD A MULTILATERAL NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS AGREEMENT. SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD CALL ON ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES TO NEGOTIATE A MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR RECIPROCAL REPORTING IN THE EVENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS-RELATED ACCIDENTS, WITH THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT THAT REPORTS FROM THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES ALSO GO TO THE UN TO BE SHARED WITH NON-NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES.

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- AN AGREEMENT ALONG THESE LINES WOULD BE INTENDED TO AVOID MISPERCEPTIONS AND INCREASE CERTAINTY AND STABILITY IN A CRISIS. MOREOVER, THE PROPOSAL WOULD MULTILATERALIZE THE CURRENT SITUATION, IN WHICH THE US, UK, AND FRANCE EACH HAVE SEPARATE BILATERAL ACCIDENTS AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

- THE SPECIFIC CONTENT OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE A MATTER FOR NEGOTIATION. REPORTS MIGHT BE SUBMITTED IN THE FOLLOWING SITUATIONS:

- -- IMMEDIATELY IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING A POSSIBLE DETONATION OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON WHICH COULD RISK NUCLEAR WAR;

- -- IMMEDIATELY IF MISSILE WARNING SYSTEMS DETECT UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS, OR IF WARNING SYSTEMS OR RELATED COMMUNICATIONS ARE INTERFERED WITH;

- -- IN ADVANCE OF PLANNED MISSILE LAUNCHES BEYOND THE NATIONAL TERRITORY IN THE DIRECTION OF THE OTHER

PARTY.

4. UNDER THIS PROPOSAL, ONLY NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES WOULD BE SIGNATORIES. HOWEVER, EACH SIGNATORY WOULD AGREE TO MAKE REPORTS, IN THE CASE OF ACCIDENTS, TO THE UN SECRETARIAT.

5. THE PROPOSAL WOULD NOT BE INTENDED TO ADDRESS OR AFFECT SUBSTANTIVE POLITICAL OR MILITARY ISSUES, BUT ONLY TO HELP ENSURE THAT NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS DO NOT, THROUGH MISINTERPRETATION BY OTHER NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES,

HEIGHTEN TENSION OR INCREASE THE RISK OF WAR.

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6. WE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE EARLY VIEWS OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER.

7. FOR LONDON: EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM FCO THAT UPON FURTHER CONSIDERATION, USG HAS DECIDED TO TAKE INFORMAL SOUNDINGS WITH PRC BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER. WE WILL PROVIDE ANSWERS TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS POSED ON MAY 9 BY FCO TO EMBASSY AFTER WE HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE CHINESE RESPONSE INTO ACCOUNT. US APPRECIATES UK WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST IN APPROACH TO PRC AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH UK AS OUR THINKING ON THIS ISSUE DEVELOPS FURTHER. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, ACCIDENTS, NUCLEAR HAZARDS, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** RLFISCHER, EA/PRC:JSROY/GFOX:MJT,BDB  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Message ID:** 42f616a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN ACDA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
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**Reference:** 78 STATE 116267, 78 LONDON 978  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UNSSOD: NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS PROPOSAL  
**TAGS:** PARM, PGOV, CH, US  
**To:** USUN NEW YORK LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014